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OF THE

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL
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BULLETIN TRIMESTRIEL
DE L'
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES BIBLIOTHECAIRES
ET DOCUMENTALISTES AGRICOLES

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VIERTELJAHRSSCHRIFT
DER INTERNATIONALEN GESELLSCHAFT.
LANDWIRTSCHAFTLICHER BIBLIOTHEKARE & DOKUMENTALISTEN

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BOLETIN TRIMESTRAL
DE LA
ASOCIACION INTERNACIONAL
DE BIBLIOTECARIOS Y DOCUMENTALISTAS AGRICOLAS

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CLASSIFICATION PROBLEMS

(Dr. S. v. Frauendorfer,
Hochschule für Bodenkultur, Vienna).

Classification is a most controversial subject. It is true that man is according to Jespersen a "classifying animal" and that the natural gift of classifying innate in mankind is one of the most important sources of what we call scientific activity in the widest sense of the word. But the subjects to be classified are usually not labelled by nature with easily recognizable marks, so that classifiers of all types - I am still employing the word in its broadest, unprofessional meaning - are apt to use their own individual judgement as to classification criteria and classification methods.

Similar conditions prevail in library and documentation work. Books reflect the whole universe: they deal with all imaginable objects and ideas. It is obvious that the same ideas and objects can be considered from very different angles. The mineral content of soil - to quote an agricultural example - has a different place in the outlook of a geologist, of a chemist, of an agronomist. The procedure to be followed in bringing similar objects and ideas together would therefore be perfect only if it were possible to meet half-way the specific cast of thinking of the individual using the collection of books or the documentation file in question. Thus some sort of compromise becomes necessary, and the idea that it is possible to draw up a classification scheme equally suitable to all purposes, to all subjects and to all sorts of users must be discarded as unrealistic.

On the other hand, there are libraries of a general character; originally the most common and most numerous type of all libraries. There the classification problem is somewhat different. It was from the consideration of the needs of these libraries that there originated the remarkable attempt to standardize classification principles and to apply them to all subjects under the sun - the Decimal Classification as outlined and developed by Melvil Dewey. It was originally meant neither for specialized libraries nor for bibliographic and documentation purposes. Only the European version and somewhat independent expansion of the Dewey scheme, nowadays well known all over the world as the Universal Decimal Classification, claimed to be applicable to all kinds of classification. In fact, even in the agricultural field the UDC made headway and even if it is not used to a very great extent in libraries, it has been found a convenient tool for classifying bibliographies and documentation files. Some of the excellent abstracting journals published by the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux are using the UDC with manifestly good results.

However, there remains the difficulty already alluded to, namely the legitimate desire of the specialist to be provided with a classification scheme more closely adapted to his particular needs, in order to avoid an arrangement of subjects which conflicts with the specialist's mode of thought and to obviate the frequently very long and complicated classification symbols which must be applied if a general scheme is used for a specific field. Since agriculture and forestry were from the very beginning a rather weak point in the original Dewey scheme which the UDC never succeeded in improving to any extent, here was one more reason for considering alternative solutions of the classification problems in these and allied subjects. One of these attempts gained a certain international reputation. It was the "*Système de Classification des Sciences agricoles*" published in a trilingual edition in 1934 and in a second revised edition 1942 by the former International Institute of Agriculture in Rome, now absorbed and continued by FAO. It was not originally intended for the arrangement of books, but primarily for bibliographical and documentation purposes. However, it was adopted by a considerable number of libraries and has been translated into several less known languages.

The existence of at least two major schemes widely in use in the agricultural library field may be regarded as regrettable. A further complication is the existence of a very detailed and elaborate classification scheme for forestry, the so-called Oxford System, which is at the same time an expansion of the UDC and a specialized scheme designed by forestry experts in accordance with their own points of view and therefore deviating somewhat from orthodox UDC principles. However, the situation must be faced as it is and no good is done by insisting that one of the greater systems must be adopted at all costs. Classification is by its very nature a flexible and individualistic activity, and full uniformity and standardization would seem neither possible nor even desirable. The task which lies before IAALD is to improve the existing classification schemes by revising them through co-ordinated action and in co-operation with the International Federation of Documentation which has already been so successful in promoting and improving UDC in other fields.

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THE LIBRARY
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE
CAMBRIDGE.

(by F.A. Buttress, Librarian).

History.

The origin of the present library can be traced back to 1892 when the Cambridge and Counties Agricultural Education Committee first organized a course of instruction in agriculture, and for the benefit of the Staff and Students engaged on this course maintained a room in St. Mary's Passage as a reading room and library. At this time the library contained some 100 volumes and the number of students totalled seven. However, by 1908 the number of volumes had increased to 622 and it was a matter of urgency to provide more accommodation. This was forthcoming when the new School of Agriculture was opened in 1910, provision being made for a comparatively spacious reading room and library. By 1914 the shelves were once again filling up and the number of students had risen to 117. With the outbreak of the 1914-18 war this number dropped to 12 but with the Armistice quickly rose to 320. During the next few years the growth of the library once more produced acute space difficulties, and in 1925 a grant from the Development Commission enabled the School of Agriculture to be extended; the new wing when completed provided for a library capable of housing 12,000 volumes together with ample reading facilities. The cost of equipment and the furnishing of the library was met out of funds accumulated for this especial purpose in previous years and included a legacy of £1,000 bequeathed to the School by Mr. Charles Jewell, father of a former student. By 1926 the library contained some 5,000 volumes, 2,000 pamphlets and

65 current periodicals. At this stage in the history of the library it was becoming increasingly important to make a wider collection of world agricultural literature; the past 30 years has shown a major development in this direction, with the result that to-day the library receives over 2,000 current periodicals and other serials dealing with all aspects of agricultural science. These include publications from most of the agricultural organizations in the British Commonwealth and also from more than 60 other countries. At the present time publications in more than 30 different languages are received. The present holdings of the library amount to some 20,000 volumes and 75,000 pamphlets. To meet the increasing demand for more space a further extension to the library was completed in 1954 and serves mainly as a store for unbound periodicals, reports, etc.

Special Collections.

1. Early Printed Works on Agriculture. The library possesses a very representative collection of early English works on agriculture including a copy of the 1534 edition of Fitcherbert's "The Boke of Husbandry" the first English book on agriculture. It was in 1927 that this collection was greatly enriched by the gift of over 200 volumes on the history of agriculture and the cognate sciences from the library of H.M. the King at Windsor. In later years another great benefactor was Mr. G. Udny Yule of St. John's College, Cambridge who during his lifetime added many important works to this collection which now totals over 600 volumes.

2. Biffen Collection on Plant Breeding and Genetics. This collection of personal reprints of the late Sir Rowland Biffen contains 1,000 items and includes especially useful works on early genetical work. Sir Rowland was Professor of Agricultural Botany and later Emeritus Professor from 1908 to 1949 and is world-renowned for his work on the cereals.

3. Marshall Collection on the Physiology of Reproduction. A collection of some 1,750 items belonging to the late Dr. F. H. A. Marshall who initiated and developed the teaching of Agricultural Physiology in the School of Agriculture and whose classical work on the physiology of reproduction received international acclaim. Dr. Marshall was Lecturer, later Reader and Emeritus Reader in Agricultural Physiology from 1903 to 1949.

4. Salaman Notes on the History of the Potato. These notes are the most recent addition to the special collections in the library and comprise 11 volumes of personal notes of the

late Dr. R. N. Salaman. Dr. Salaman, who was Director of the Potato Virus Research Station from 1926 to 1939, is well known for his work on the potato; his notes contain much of interest for the researcher into the history of this intriguing crop.

5. Staff Papers. This collection contains papers published by members of the Staff from the end of the last century to the present time. It consists of an author index of all known work published by members of the staff and at present lists some 3,250 items, of which over 2,100 of the original papers are available for consultation in the library.

6. Herd, Flock and Studbooks. The library possesses a good collection of English Herd, Flock and Studbooks.

Methods of Acquisition.

Publications are required by purchase, gift or exchange. With the limited funds at the disposal of the librarian it is not possible to purchase all the periodicals necessary for the proper functioning of a library which covers many aspects of agriculture and has in addition to satisfy a very varied demand from its readers. It is therefore apparent that we must to a large extent depend on our benefactors and on the kind co-operation of librarians and others throughout the world who send us publications in exchange for what we can offer them - often inadequate for what we receive in return. The growth and usefulness of our library in the academic and national spheres is in no small measure due to the generous support we continue to receive from our 'exchange' friends and others.

Catalogues.

Author and subject card catalogues are available for books, and an author index only for pamphlets. Circumstances do not allow the compilation of an extensive subject index covering the vast amount of periodical and pamphlet literature, but this is offset by the availability of most of the more important bibliographical works and abstracting journals. All publications issued serially are listed in the Periodicals Catalogue which is typewritten in book form and contains the following supplements: a). List of Congresses and Conferences; b). List of Herd, Flock and Studbooks; and c). List of Russian Periodicals in Transliterated and Translated forms.

Services.

The first function of the library is to provide facilities for study and reference for students and members of the staff of the School and its associated research organizations. Courses of study

are wide and varied, and involve an annual intake of about 200 students and graduates. Courses provided are as follows:

a) A three-year course in agriculture leading to the ordinary B.A. Degree with a certificate of proficiency; b) a two-year course for the Diploma in Agriculture; for which graduates in pure Science or Agriculture are eligible; c) the Diploma in Agricultural Science extending over one or two years and designed to suit the needs of graduates in science who intend to become specialist advisory officers or research workers in agricultural science; and d) advanced courses leading to M.Sc. and Ph.D. Degrees.

In addition, facilities are provided for cadets and serving officers in the Overseas Civil Service. The library is also available for use by other Departments of the University and a recent check has shown that over 25 other Departments make use of it. Local Non-University bodies such as Institutes and Units of the Agricultural Research Council, Government Departments and Industrial Organizations are also allowed to consult the library.

External service is given by loans through the National Central Library, a national organization which is the centre of the system of regional library co-operation and covers the whole of the United Kingdom. When possible publications are loaned abroad to other libraries.

Finally, the library works in close co-operation with the Commonwealth Bureau of Plant-Breeding and Genetics, one of the 13 documentation and information centres forming the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux.

Publications.

Since most of the published work by members of the School of Agricultural appears in various scientific and popular periodicals, we have issued since 1929 an annual MEMOIR which summarizes those papers containing original research and gives title references for popular articles. Since 1946 review articles relating to phases of agricultural research particularly associated with the School have been included annually in the Memoir. In addition reprints of many of the original papers are available upon request. This publication has a world-wide circulation of over 1,500 copies. Other publications prepared by the library include the following: a) Agricultural periodicals of the British Isles, 1681-1900, and their location; b) Notes for readers; and c) Hand list of selected periodicals. The last two items are mainly intended for use in the School.

Further publications issued from the School but not distributed by the library include the REPORTS, etc. of the Provincial Agricultural Economics Service and a limited issue of the magazine of the Cambridge University Agricultural Society entitled "The Golden Sheaf".

Other Functions.

Prompted by the shortage of books in the early post-war period the librarian in conjunction with the Cambridge University Agricultural Society inaugurated a Book Exchange Scheme whereby students could dispose of their books to other students. This scheme met with immediate success and continues to prove valuable.

General Remarks.

This account has endeavoured to show how from humble beginnings the library has grown during the past 60 years not only to form a vital part in the functioning of the School but also to serve agriculture in its widest sense by being able to supply reference material for an ever increasing agricultural public.

It should be emphasized once again that the development and usefulness of the present library is in no small measure due to the continued co-operation of librarians and others throughout the world who so generously send us their literature. This example of successful co-operation prompts me to close this brief account with the hope that the IAALD will go from strength to strength, since it is only by full co-operation between librarians and others that the status and usefulness of agricultural libraries, especially in under-developed areas, will be improved so as to meet the increasing demands of the agricultural public.

MITTEILUNGEN ÜBER LANDWIRTSCHAFTLICHE BIBLIOTHEKEN UND DOKUMENTATIONSSTELLEN IN DEUTSCHLAND.

(Prof.Dr.W.Gleisberg, Willinghusen b.Hamburg)

Gelegentlich der Mitgliederversammlung des Land- und Forstwirtschaftlichen Forschungsrates am 8.III.56 in Giessen wurde ein von der Dokumentationskommission vorgelegter Bericht über den Organisationsvorschlag für eine landw.Dokumentationszentrale gebilligt.

Der Vorschlag sieht als Ziel vor: 1.) Koordination der landwirtschaftlichen Bibliotheken zum Schrifttumsnachweis, 2.) Koordination der vorhandenen und zu schaffenden Dokumentations-schwerpunkte der Landwirtschaftswissenschaft zur fachlichen Schrifttumserschließung, bzw. wissenschaftlichen Inhaltsanalyse.

Über Einzelheiten des Vorschlags, der inzwischen auch mit dem Bundesminister für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten erörtert wurde, wird später eingehend berichtet.

Die Tagung der Arbeitsgemeinschaft der technisch-wissenschaftlichen Bibliotheken vom 14./15.III. in Frankfurt a.M. gab unter anderem Gelegenheit zu eingehenden Aussprachen über inneren Aufbau mittlerer Bibliotheken. Prof.Gülich-Kiel empfahl eine stärkere Beachtung der Dokumentationsaufgaben durch die Bibliotheken.

Nach Vereinbarung zwischen den Landwirtschaftlichen Forschungsanstalten Braunschweig-Völkenrode und dem Land- und Forstwirtschaftlichen Forschungsrat, die Völkenrode getroffen wurde, sollen weitere Mittel zur Erweiterung des "Handbuches der Bibliographien des Landbaues", bearbeitet von Prof.Dr.Rudolf Lauche, dem Bibliotheksleiter der Forschungsanstalt für Landwirtschaft Völkenrode, bereitgestellt werden. Im Interesse der Erweiterung und zur Aufnahme des Wageninger Materials soll Prof.Lauche in Kürze in Wageningen mit T.P.Loosjes, dem Leiter der holländ.Dokumentationszentrale, Vereinbarungen treffen.

Zwischen Dr.R.Scidler (Salzgitter-Lebenstedt) als Vertreter der Max-Eyth Gesellschaft und den Herren Loosjes und Koekebakker fand am 22.V. in Wageningen eine Besprechung über DK 631.3 statt. Dabei wurde Übereinstimmung bezgl.eines gemeinsamen Vorschlags über eine Neufassung, bzw.Erweiterung von 631.3 an die FID erzielt.

Im Rahmen der Jahresversammlung des Deutschen Bibliothekarverbandes fand am 26.V. in der Techn.Universität Berlin eine Sondersitzung der Landwirtschaftsbibliothekare statt, in der Dr. Lauche eine kurze Übersicht über die Unterhaltsträger und Leiter der landw. und forstw. Bibliotheken Westdeutschlands gab.

COMMUNICATIONS TO MEMBERS.

Two further members of the I.A.A.L.D have agreed to join the group of Regional Correspondents, whose contributions play such an important part in the production of our Quarterly Bulletin:

BRITISH WEST INDIES. Miss M.E.M.Price, Librarian,
Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad.

CEYLON, INDIA & PAKISTAN. Mr.H.T.P.Samarasekera,
Librarian, Department of Agriculture,
Ceylon.

NEW ZEALAND. Miss Mary Campbell, Librarian, Massey
Agricultural College, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NEWSNEW PERIODICALS

(also Changes of Title, and Cessations)
from January 1955 onwards)

Abstract Journals & Periodical Bibliographies:

Japanese serials index. Agriculture. 1- . Tokyo, 19 Nov 1955- .
(Tokyo Noko Daigaku Library, P.O.D. Musashi Fuchu, Tokyo).

Landwirtschaftliche Literatur der Tschechoslowakei. Referats-
Zeitschrift. 1.1- . Prag, March 1956- . (Landwirtschaftliche
Zentralbibliothek, Tschechoslowakische Akademie d.
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Polska bibliografia analityczna: biologia. 1.1- . Warszawa, 1955- .
Quarterly. The first issue, which costs zł.6,30, contains 121
entries. (Instytut Biologii Doświadczalnej im M. Nenckiego,
Warszawa, ul. Pasteura 3).

Prague. Ústřední Zemědělská Knihovna. Prameny literatury. 1.1- .
Praha, April 1956- . (Slezská čis. 7, Prague 12).

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Auslandes. 1.1- . Hannover-Herrenhausen, Jan 1956- .
(Fakultät für Gartenbau und Landeskultur, Herrenhäuserstr.2).

Selective quarterly guide to Polish periodical literature. 1- .
London, April 1956- . Mimeographed; gratis. (Polish Cultural
Institute, 81 Portland Place, London W1). Among the subject
headings are: Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Soil
Science.

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Agricultura de las Americas. 5.5- . Kansas City, May 1956- .
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42, Leningrad).
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Supersedes: Transactions of the American Association of Cereal
Chemists and Cereal news. (Monthly except July & Aug. Annual
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- Hocking, G.M. A dictionary of terms in pharmacognosy and other divisions of economic botany. Springfield, Ill., Thomas [1955] 284 p. (Charles C. Thomas, 301-327 East St. Lawrence Ave., Springfield, Ill.) \$9.75. Published simultaneously by Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd., Oxford, and Ryerson Press, Toronto.
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COMMONWEALTH AGRICULTURAL BUREAUX Review Conference, London 1955. Report of proceedings. Pp.90 (H.M. Stationery Office, P.O. Box 569 London, S.E.1. Price 4 shillings).

FERTILIZER APPLICATION, 1955. Proceedings of the thirty-first annual meeting of the National Joint Committee on Fertilizer Application. Washington, D.C. 1955. 99 p. mimeographed. (National Plant Food Institute, 1700 K St., N.W. Washington 6, D.C.).

PLANKTON, 1954. Symposium on marine and freshwater plankton in the Indo-Pacific, Bangkok, Jan 1954. Bangkok, Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization, 1955. Pp.11.

PLANT GROWTH SUBSTANCES, 1955. The chemistry and action of plant growth substances. Proceedings of a symposium held at Wye College, Kent, 1955. Edited by R.L. Wain & F. Wightman. London, Butterworth, Ltd., 88 Kingsway, WC2, 1956. Price: £2.15s.0d.

POPULATION, 1954. The numbers of men and animals. [Proceedings of a symposium held in September, 1954, by the Institute of Biology, London]. Edited by J.B. Cragg & N.W. Pirie. Edinburgh, Oliver & Boyd, 1955. Price: 15 shillings.

SCIENCE, 1955. Proceedings of the 2nd Congress of the Pan Indian Science Association, Perth. Albany, W. Australia, [?1956]. The sections include: Physical, Biological, Geological and Agricultural Sciences, Geography, and Oceanography. (Prof. A.D. Ross, Golf Links Road, Albany, Western Australia). Pp.570; price £1.7s.6d.

SEEDS, 1955. Proceedings of the Association of Official Seed Analysts, 1955. Forty-fifth annual meeting, Stillwater, Oklahoma, June 26-30, 1955. Washington . 131 p. Lithographed. (Association of Official Seed Analysts, R.G. Colburn, Secty-Treas., State Dept. of Agriculture, Lincoln, Nebraska). \$3.00.

SOIL MECHANICS, Maritime, 1954. Proceedings of the 1st Maritime Soil Mechanics Conference, April 1954. Ottawa, National Research Council, 1955.

WEEDS, 1955. Proceedings of the 8th New Zealand Weed Conference. Pp.144. (PO Box 2298, Wellington, N.Z., price 15s.0d.)

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Aslib yearbook. First issue available soon. Price 12s.6d. (10s. to members). Aslib, 4 Palace Gate, London W8. (See Aslib information no. 187, June 1956, for details).

Blanchard, J.R. and Ostvald, Harald. A bibliographical guide to agricultural reference works, by these authors, is now in the hands of the University of California Press. The title will probably be Sources for agricultural research. Dr. Blanchard writes: "The manuscript is close to 400 type-written pages. The work is divided into the following major divisions: Agriculture, general; Plant sciences, which includes botany, horticulture and agronomy, plant breeding, plant pathology, forestry and forestry products; Animal sciences, including economic zoology, animal husbandry, poultry husbandry, veterinary medicine, economic entomology, apiculture, pest control, commercial fishing and fisheries; Physical sciences, including agricultural chemistry, soils and fertilizers, agricultural engineering and irrigation, and meteorology; Food and nutrition; Social sciences, which includes agricultural economics, rural sociology, and agricultural education. Each of these subdivisions is separated into units which discuss works according to the following categories: bibliographies of bibliographies, abstracting journals, bibliographies and indexes, encyclopedias, dictionaries, directories, hand-books and year-books, history, geography, and so forth. Although the work has been chiefly designed for American agricultural research workers we hope that it will also be of interest to colleagues in other parts of the world since the world's major agricultural reference works are described and included."

International journal of applied radiation and isotopes. London, Pergamon Press. (Announced; the first issue will presumably appear in 1956).

A multilingual glossary of geographical sciences (to include pedology, hydrology, climatology, plant and animal ecology) is being prepared at the University of Lund, Sweden, under the editorship of Professor E. Kant. For further details see: UNESCO monthly bulletin on scientific documentation and terminology, May 1956.

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GENERAL AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

EXCHANGE : OFFERS AND REQUESTS

The Director, Centrum voor Landbouwdocumentatie, General Foulkes 1A, Wageningen, offers copies of the following bibliographical lists recently compiled (numbers of references given in brackets):

Self servicing waterpumps for cattle in the pastures (9)
 Agricultural credit in tropical countries (60)
 Recent references to milk-breeding (200)
 Rotation (78)
 Maize irrigation in tropical and subtropical countries (11)
 Dutch publications about magnesium in soils and plants (29)
 Some references about the disposal of agricultural surpluses in the U.S.A. (17)
 Feather eating and cannibalism in poultry (14)
 Books about pea-nut growing (6)
 Methionine in poultry rations (13)
 Some recent publications about European agricultural integration (19)
 Gypsum on soils previously inundated by the sea (13)
 Antibiotics in fodder (Dutch publications only) (25)
 Some references about the Philippines (14)
 Greenhouse construction (23)
 TCA in tropical countries (16)
 Some references about the family farm (14)
 Some references about technical assistance (13)
 Tea technology (14)
 Agricultural extension in the tropical countries (36)
 Wild birds useful to the farmer (20)
 Brantas Valley (Java) (14)
 Publications in English and German about Dutch agricultural research Caraway (35) (7)
 Fruitgrowing in France (18)
 Spinacia oleracea L. - Genetics and breeding (13).

The Librarian, Kungl. Lantbrukshögskolan, Uppsala 7, Sweden issues lists of duplicates distributed free. Anyone wishing to receive these lists should apply to him.

INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

Levington Research Station, near Felixstowe, Suffolk. Messrs. Fisons Ltd. have recently established this further Station for research on fertilizers, etc.

Whitbourne, Newfoundland. A Fur Experimental Farm and research laboratory was established here recently under the supervision of Dr. A.H. Kennedy.

Dr. Richard Ulmer of Stuttgart, well-known publisher of books on agriculture and kindred subjects for over half a century, celebrated his 85th birthday last month. Dr. Ulmer, who took over the Verlag Eugen Ulmer founded in 1868 by his father, was personally responsible for the series (to name only two) which are widely known among horticulturists and agriculturists: Grundlagen und Fortschritte im Garten- und Weinbau, and the Tierzucht-Bücherei. In spite of the destruction of its premises in Stuttgart in 1944 the firm, which specializes in text-books for students of the natural sciences and those at agricultural and horticultural colleges as well as issuing various specialist periodicals, has expanded considerably. After carrying on its work at Ludwigsburg for 11 years, the firm returned to Stuttgart early this year.

FORTHCOMING CONGRESSES

BEEKEEPING. 16th International Beekeepers' Congress. Vienna Town Hall, 12-18 August 1956. Office of the Congress, Georg Cochplatz 3, Vienna I.

BIOLOGY, Developmental. First International Congress of Developmental Biology. Providence, Rhode Island, July 23-26, 1956. J.W. Wilson, Department of Biology, Brown University, Providence, R.I.

GRASSLANDS. Section O, Agriculture, of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold a four-session symposium on Grasslands in Our Agriculture, Dec. 29 and 30, 1956 in connection with the meeting of the association in New York. Further information from H.B. Sprague, Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa.

RURAL EXTENSION. International development centre on methods and program planning in rural extension, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture..., the State Agricultural University, and the International Agricultural Study Centre. Wageningen, 10 July - 4 August 1956. (Prof. Ritzema Bosweg, International Study Centre, Wageningen, Netherlands).

THE BARTER OF KNOWLEDGE

An Analysis of the International Exchange of Printed Intelligence

by

Foster Edward Mohrhardt

Director of the Library

United States Department of Agriculture

Washington, District of Columbia, U.S.A.

PART II.

Grants from the International Cooperation Administration have enabled our Library to set up a service office and also to survey exchange institutions in various countries. During the past three years visits have been made to institutions in Central America, South America, the Caribbean area and the Near East. On the basis of these visits recommended lists have been made for depositories. Evaluation was made on the basis of fields of research, teaching interests and the ability of the library to organize the publications, to make them available, and to provide service to an area. These suggested depositories are classified as:

1. Those equipped to handle all Federal and State agricultural publications.
2. Institutions which can handle partial exchanges, or might be added to group one.
3. Those interested only in animal husbandry or veterinary medicine.
4. Those interested only in plant science.

Lists of these institutions have been sent to members of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities.

The Exchange Desk as presently operating:

1. Informs U.S. Agricultural Colleges of current foreign requests for exchange.
2. Notifies colleges of changes in the status of depositories.
3. Notifies colleges of new exchange possibilities.

4. Receives requests from foreign institutions.

The Exchange Desk acts only as a center for the accumulation, evaluation and dissemination of exchange information. The Land-Grant institutions are completely independent and use the USDA service only as an information center. Each establishes such exchange arrangements as it needs and desires.

This thumb nail historical presentation is offered merely as a background for discussion. Our concern here is not with history but with the development of programs to aid in the exchange of printed information between our libraries. We should approach a solution to the exchange problem through a study first of the types of needs and second of the types of exchange methods available.

Generally library exchange needs are classed as either inclusive or selective. Few libraries are equipped to handle complete or inclusive agreements. Those that are -- the libraries with national responsibilities -- usually have exchange units whose full time work is in this area. The many complex problems arise with those whose acquisition problems are selective. For these institutions the cost of acquisitions through exchange may rise to a point where outright purchase is more economical. These factors have led to exhaustive analysis and criticism by libraries throughout the world. The Library of Congress, with its extensive system, presented the following broad critical summary in 1949:

"The problem ... was threefold: to extend the system of official agreements, to improve the operation of existing agreements; and to deal with the problems of near-print publications"

More specific are the criticisms which have been made over the past twenty years of the Brussels Bureaux. These complain of slowness, uneven listing, lack of a strong central coordinating center, and limited responsibilities of the various national bureaux. Suggestions have been made that the bureaux be taken over by the national libraries and expand their activities. Even the newer systems give indications of difficulties. Curtailment has been implied in the UNESCO system, and there is dissatisfaction with the OEEC scheme. However, even the most severe critics of the present and past plans have reserved praise for those who have worked so diligently to carry them out.

Basically the problem has challenged solutions because of its complexity. This is clearly indicated in a statement by Dr. Robert B. Downs of the University of Illinois concerning international exchanges:

"It involves, for example, exchange of publications between institutions; exchanges of official documents among governments; commercial exchanges; national bibliography; indexing and abstracting organs; cooperative acquisition agreements among libraries; reproduction of research materials; copyright, tariff, and postal regulations."

From this array it is evident that the discussion of exchanges inevitably includes many complicating factors. If successful international exchange is dependent upon the solution of all these satellite problems, then we must be very pessimistic about any foreseeable solution. Most proposals have attempted to break the problem into component parts and solve them separately. The plans for international exchange arrangements have been broad in scope and to some extent visionary. They have tried to systematize activities and set up operating units without considering cost factors, authority to require compliance, or ability to meet a variety of complex needs.

In spite of these factors of weakness, a study of all types of exchanges shows elements which may simplify and form a basis for a new international approach. Many countries have organized systems of domestic or international exchange on a basis of subject interests. Probably the most successful exchange systems have developed in libraries specializing in medicine, law or agriculture. Two arguments support the thesis that all international exchanges should be organized according to subject interests. First is the unquestioned success of national systems which could form the nuclei of the new organization. Second is the ability of such a system to handle all types of material regardless of format or age. Within the field of agriculture, counterpart offices in various countries similar to that in the USDA Library could greatly extend the international exchange of agricultural knowledge. Exchange systems operated in subject areas could be responsible for depository collections, current journals and duplicates.

Regardless of the system used, it is further suggested that consideration be given to finding methods to eliminate the decelerating action of listing duplicate materials. This activity had reduced the effectiveness of most systems. Dr.

Phineas Windsor of the University of Illinois once proposed that libraries in the United States dispose of duplicates by boxing them in quantity, unlisted, and shipping them on a routed basis to a series of cooperating libraries who would select what they wanted and send the remainder to the other cooperators. Since the listing of duplicates on an international level has proven not only onerous but in some cases impossible -- could a system be devised to have the duplicates from one country sent to a central point? They could then be shipped, unlisted, but broadly arranged by subject, to a series of cooperating countries. Each of the countries could make the material available for personal selection during a specific period. It could then be passed on to the next country. The U.S. Book Exchange in Washington has shown the possibility of such selection. The quantity of material on hand and the rapid changes in stock make it practically impossible for the Exchange to issue lists. The Exchange has, however, encouraged librarians throughout the country to make personal annual visits to select from the shelves. Both the Exchange and the librarians indicate that this is an effective method. It could well be an element in a system of "gross exchange."

One further recommendation is submitted for curtailing costs and overcoming delay -- two elements that have weakened every system. Previously those concerned with costs and speed of delivery have suggested sending a microfilm copy of a specific article. It seems logical that we should consider a further refinement. Would it be possible to air mail from country to country a microfilm copy of important documents which are needed in quantity? The receiving country could then reproduce as many copies as needed. If such a system proved feasible it could greatly expedite the ready exchange of knowledge. In addition, it might prove to be more economical than paying shipping and handling costs over large distances of quantities of publications. It would involve the centralization of orders for continuing needs, and the ability to reproduce material in quantity.

Regardless of the efficiency of the systems we develop, we must face two accumulating problems which we as librarians cannot delimit. One is the constant increase in the number of published journals. In the scientific field alone the number has increased over 100 per cent in the past 30 years. Added to this is the impact of processed publications which have so far defied bibliographic control. This impact on exchange has not yet been fully felt.

We hope that libraries will scrutinize carefully their exchange costs to make certain that this system whose original purpose was to provide an economical method of exchanging knowledge may not have

become so complex that it is no longer serving the purpose. Let us also examine our needs to insure that we are not complicating our present machinery by collecting merely because we think we are obtaining material free.

Although barter, the foundation of our system, is a primitive method of commerce, it should not deter us from an investigation of microfilm, micro-reproduction, photo offset and other modern devices in carrying out our program. We have been pedestrian and unimaginative in our attempts at solving the exchange problem. Can't we agricultural librarians point the way toward a real solution?

[Concluded]

CORRIGENDA

in the previous issue of this Bulletin.

Page 27, line 22. For: Palmerston read: Palmerston North.
[The 7th International Grassland Congress, November 1956,
will be held at Palmerston North]

Page 52, line 1. 'Landwirtschaft - angewandte Wissenschaft' did
not start in 1955.

Page 58, line 1. Exact title: Nutrition bibliography of Indonesia.
Publisher: University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu.

A NOTE ON THIS QUARTERLY BULLETIN

The editorial office is at the Library, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Herts., England. Communications regarding it should be sent to Mr. D.H. Boalch at that address.

News in the field of the bibliography and documentation of agriculture and allied subjects is welcomed. Short articles (about 1500 words) and Letters to the Editor will be published in the Quarterly Bulletin from time to time; these should be in English, French, German, or Spanish. Articles, in whatever language they are written, should have an English summary.

Note: This Quarterly Bulletin is obtainable only through membership of the International Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists. The annual subscription of 50 Swiss francs (£4.2.6d; \$12.50) for Institutes or Libraries, or 10 Swiss francs (£0.16.6d; \$2.50) for individuals, should be sent to the Treasurer, Th.P. Loosjes, Twentse Bank, Wageningen, Netherlands.